

Ex. Doc. No. 52.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

REVENUE MARINE SERVICE.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

The annual report of the office in charge of the revenue marine service.

FEBRUARY 13, 1849.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
February 12, 1849.

SIR: Herewith I have the honor to transmit to the House of Representatives the annual report of the officer in charge of the revenue marine service, which presents a detailed statement of the vessels employed in that service during the past year, and those under construction, conformable to an act of Congress making an appropriation for the same, approved August 12, 1848.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. J. WALKER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Revenue Bureau, January 16, 1849.

SIR: In obedience to the requirements of the regulations for the government of the United States revenue marine, I have the honor to submit this my annual report upon the condition of that service.

The discontinuance of the eight steamers built for that service, and the temporary transfer of the schooner Taney to the navy, reduces the number of cruising vessels for the past year to eight, which have been stationed as follows: At Eastport, Boston, Newport, New York, Delaware, Norfolk, Mobile, and Lake Erie. These vessels have been constantly cruising over their respective cruising grounds, and, from the evidence adduced from their journals received at this office, there is reason to believe their duties have been performed with diligence and in good faith.

In addition to the vessels above alluded to, there has been built and equipped during the past year, under the law making an appropriation for that purpose, approved August 10, 1846, a brig for the west coast of the United States. This vessel left the capes of Virginia on the 15th day of November last, under the command of Captain Alexander V. Fraser, destined for Oregon, where, from the character of that officer for ability and diligence in the performance of his duties, it is anticipated she will be of great service in protecting the revenue from fraud in that new country, and at the same time render protection to the numerous American vessels engaged in the whale fishery in those seas.

Contracts have been made for building and equipping six schooners for the revenue service, under the law making an appropriation for that purpose, approved August 12, 1848, which are under construction, as follows: Jacob Pees, of Philadelphia, two, (2;) John Carrick, of Erie, Pennsylvania, two, (2;) John Brown & Co., of Baltimore, one, (1;) and Messrs. Graves & Fereba, of Portsmouth, Virginia, one, (1;) these were the lowest bidders out of thirty-seven bids.

It is contemplated that these vessels will be ready for service in March, and when completed, it is supposed that nearly all the most important stations will be filled, and will make a line of connexion of nearly the whole of our sea coast and lakes.

The steamer "Walker," built at Pittsburgh, was transferred to the coast survey on the 11th of February last. The steamers "Spencer" and "McLane" were so defective in their models, as to render them entirely unfit for cruising vessels; it was, therefore, deemed advisable to dispose of their machinery, and convert the vessels into floating lights, for which service they are well adapted.

The steamers "Jefferson" and "Dallas" have been brought down from the Lakes Erie and Ontario through the Welland canal to the sea coast.

The Dallas is now having new machinery put in her by Mr. E. Campbell, and for the purpose of making efficient vessels of the steamers Jefferson and Polk, it has been deemed advisable to put

